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bution to farmers within the infested district of this compendium of useful knowledge.

Fourth. The procuring by wise legislation enactments of combined effort on the part of the agriculturists of the afflicted region, under the directions contained in the publication suggested in section 3, based upon the careful observations required by sections 1 and 2. Such information as is required for this purpose cannot be obtained without the aid of the National Government, as I have said on former occasions; and the whole spirit of the record of the proceedings of the conference of Governors, which I have mentioned above, is that the Government should take hold of this subject with the earnestness which its importance demands. Many similar appeals had been made before, but never by so distinguished a body, representing the will of five populous States and one Territory, all of which had been greatly devastated by this single insect, and in which the channels of human immigration had been changed by its ravages.

Yet this application failed as all former ones had done; and to this day there is not in the possession of any farmer or any student of science the information necessary for the suppression of even a single insect pest, unless it has been laboriously acquired by sifting many volumes of difficult access or of large cost.

*On Mineral Caoutchouc.*—Mr. GALLOWAY C. MORRIS presented specimens of mineral caoutchouc from South Australia, and stated that the material had attracted his attention in the exhibit of the South Australian Department of the Centennial Exhibition. From the exhibitor, Mr. C. W. Stuart, he had obtained the specimens, and from him learned that the substance is found during the dry season in a small section of country of a swampy nature in the Coorong District. It occurs in sheets from the thickness of a sheet of paper to about five-eighths of an inch; and is being manufactured into a good article of illuminating oil.

The geological formation of the basin in which it is found is thus described:—The surface is sand, either white and barren or brown and loamy, with occasional ridges or distributions of limestone. Below that is segregated limestone, hard and approaching crystallization, the interstices filled with light brown tenacious clay, followed by compact light red sandstone of various thickness gradually fading in color and consistence until it touches the water and merges into quicksand. On the lowest flats, fissures occur in the limestone; the orifices are very small and irregular but reach to the underlying quicksand.

In connection with this mineral caoutchouc is found another material, a sample of which he also presented which goes under the local name, from the district in which it is found, of Coorongite. He was told that it is found over the same ground as the caoutchouc, but at a rather lower level. He had found this mate-

rial to consist principally of fresh-water Diatomaceæ cemented together with some hydrocarbon.

An analysis of the caoutchouc had been forwarded to him, which was as follows:—

Moisture	.	.	.	.	.	.	0.4682
Carbon	.	.	.	.	.	.	64.7300
Hydrogen	.	.	.	.	.	.	11.6300
Ash	.	.	.	.	.	.	1.7900
Fixed carbon	.	.	.	.	.	.	1.0050
Oxygen and other unestimated matters	.	.	.	.	.	.	20.3768
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### MARCH 13.

The President, Dr. RUSCHENBERGER, in the chair.

Thirty-two members present.

Papers entitled "Notes on Genera Acidaspis, Murchison, Odontopleura, Emmrich, and Ceratocephala, Warder," by A. W. Vogdes, and "Chemical Notes," by Geo. Hay, were presented for publication.

The death of Frank W. Lankenau was announced.

*Evolutionary Law as illustrated by Abnormal Growth in an Apple Tree.*—Mr. THOMAS MEEHAN exhibited some branches of a "Smoke-house" apple tree, which had the cluster of flowers at the end of a young shoot, flowering after the leaves and growth had matured, instead of blooming in spurs early in spring, and simultaneously with the expansion of the leaves, as in ordinary cases. There were numerous instances of the normal and abnormal growths on the same tree, the abnormal ones flowering about six weeks after the normal ones, but both classes maturing the fruit at about the same time in the fall. He explained that physiologically there was but a slight difference between what was known in the botanies as plants which bloom from last season's wood, and plants which flower from the growth of the same year. In the case of the former the spirals are closely appressed, as could be seen by examining the old apple spurs exhibited. The scars where the leaves or their equivalent bud scales had existed were so close together that there were scarcely any internodes. In the case of that class which flower from the growth of the same year, it was simply that the spirals closely appressed in the spurs were now drawn out. In these apple branches there were from six to nine internodes before the clusters of flowers were borne.

The point he wished particularly to draw attention to was that when there was a change in one important character, there was often change in others making a complete set of characters which